

50 Years of Air Force Civil Engineer

When our founders published the first issue of *Air Force Civil Engineer* in 1960, we were already building our proud heritage. Aviation engineers played key roles in World War II, even before the Air Force was established as a separate service in 1947. During the 1950s, engineers continued to serve honorably in the Korean War as the career field gained momentum and prominence.

In the 1960s, leaders within the Civil Engineering functional continued to promote civil engineering as a discipline, a profession, and a passion, and made it a top priority to ensure that our Airmen had the knowledge, skills, experience, and respect critical not only to their own personal professional development, but to the overall mission of a rapidly maturing Air Force. To facilitate the exchange of ideas and information, and inform our engineers about the latest technologies and lessons learned, 50 years ago, Maj Gen Augustus M. Minton began publication of the *Air Force Civil Engineer*.

In the introductory issue of the magazine, Maj Gen Minton wrote

The first issue of the Air Force Civil Engineer is another step forward in our Professional Development Program. The purpose of the Air Force Civil Engineer is to provide a medium of exchange of professional ideas and information which will result in a more effective civil engineering function in the Air Force....Through the frequent exchange of ideas in a medium such as this magazine we can accomplish the gigantic task of obtaining more efficient use of our personnel and a more economical expenditure of our construction and maintenance operation dollars.



These words were written 50 years ago, yet you still hear me echo them today. The professional development of our Airmen continues to be one of my top priorities — to “Build Great Leaders” we must ensure that we get the training, experience, academic education, and continuing professional military education to stay current and relevant. Every Airman in our total force, military and civilian, should be seeking new opportunities to learn. Find mentors, be mentors, join professional organizations, continue your education, and continue to read this great publication, the *Air Force Civil Engineer*.

Today, we not only celebrate a milestone for our magazine, we also honor 50 years of our proud heritage and the accomplishments of all the engineers who paved the way to where we are today. The *Air Force Civil Engineer* has journeyed with us, dedicated to chronicling Air Force Civil Engineering and recording the tremendous impacts our engineers have made around the world in peacetime and in contingency operations. The magazine has been a force in promoting our career field, as well as an important tool in sharing news, knowledge, and ideas across the career field. It has been a place for Airmen to contribute their experience, discuss relevant issues, and communicate when other means were very limited. Along the way, writing an article for the *Air Force Civil Engineer* became a prestigious and recognized opportunity to demonstrate proficiency and leadership in a civil engineering subject.

On this 50th anniversary of our magazine, I tip my hat to the men and women who have been its stewards, and to the individuals who have spent their time contributing, reading, and sharing. I look forward, with all of you, to the magazine’s indispensable contribution to our promising future, and what the next 50 years hold for our Civil Engineering Airmen.

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The Civil Engineer